President : The member has already answered that it is entirely in the discretion of the Judge to decide whether the judgment should be reported in the Law Reports or not.

Tondankulangara—Munro-light road.

6. ✻**Mr. K. Padmanabha Panickar** (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have called for a regular detailed estimate for the construction of the Tondankulangara—Munro-light road in Arianad South pakuthi, Ambalapuzha taluk ;

(*b*) if they have received the estimate, what the total estimate amounts to ;

(*c*) whether they have directed or sanctioned the provision of any amount for the construction of the road in the P. W. D. budget for the current year ;

(*d*) if so, what is the amount ; and

(*e*) whether they are aware that almost all the owners of lands on either side and adjoining the selected route for the said road have cleared the lands by removing the trees, fencing, etc., from their respective plots, which are required for properly widening the said road ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott ; (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes ; but it was not possible to provide funds for the work.

(*d*) This does not arise.

(*e*) A petition to this effect has been received by the Chief Engineer and the necessary verification is being made.

Mr. K. Padmanabha Panickar : With reference to the last portion of the question, may I know when the petition was received by the Chief Engineer ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: I must claim notice. I cannot state it off-hand.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: May I know when the estimate was called for ?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: I think it was in July this year.

Travancoreans employed in the South Indian Railway.

7. ✻**Mr. K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad** (*Jenmies*) : Will the Government be pleased to obtain and supply information as to the number of Travancoreans employed in the Travancore branch of the South Indian Railway and also the percentage of such number to the total number of appointments in that branch ?

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Mr. T. C. Thommen : Government consider that no useful purpose will be served by calling for the information as the staff appointed to the Travancore Section will be transferred to other Sections and *vice versa*.

Mr. K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad : May I know from Government the number of Travancoreans employed in the Travancore branch of the South Indian Railway ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : I claim notice.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : Sir, I rise to a point of order. The answer to the question is " Government consider that no useful purpose will be served by calling for information as the staff appointed to the Travancore Section will be transferred to other Sections and *vice versa*." That is an answer giving an opinion. This House exercises its right by asking questions. There is a rule which specifically states that no question involving by way of answer any opinion can be asked. much less can Government give opinions of their own. We wanted information and we never called for opinions from Government.

President : The answer given by Government in other words means that the Government did not consider it possible to furnish the information. It does not mean more than that. The information is not at their disposal and so they cannot furnish the information.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know, Sir, whether there is any possibility of obtaining that information ?

President : They have said that they do not want to hunt after it.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : My point was whether Government can express an opinion as an answer when we are debarred from asking questions which call for answers involving an opinion ?

President : Yes. So far as you, gentlemen, are concerned, there is a rule. But so far as Government are concerned there is no rule.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know, Sir, whether there is any arrangement in the Secretariat of our State to see that at least a portion of the employees in the S. I. R. is taken from Travancoreans, or is there any particular section of our Secretariat which would at least forward an application for a post in the S.I.R ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen : There is no separate section specially intended for that, but the matter has been referred to the railway authorities. They have assured that Travancoreans will receive full consideration along with others in the matter of appointments.

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Mr. E. P. Varghese: May I know whether Government have made any arrangement with the company that a particular percentage of the employees should be recruited from Travancoreans ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen: No.

Mr. E. P. Varghese: May I know whether there is any arrangement with the company that preference should be given to Travancoreans at least in the Travancore branch of the railway ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen: No. Their case is considered along with others.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): May I know whether the Government had at any time recommended that the Travancoreans should be appointed in the S. I. R. ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen: I claim notice.

Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai: May I know from the member whether Government have any objection to forward applications from Travancoreans for appointment in the S. I. R. ?

Mr. T. C. Thommen: It is a question of opinion.

Education Department Co-operative Benefit Fund.

8. ***Mr. K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad:** Will the Government be pleased to state the extent of progress so far made in the winding up of the Education Department Co-operative Benefit Fund ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: The Education Department Employees' Co-operative Benefit Fund Ltd., No. 1964 has not yet been cancelled. The question of winding up therefore does not arise.

Mr. K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad: May I know whether the Fund is working properly now ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: It is not working at present.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know why it did not work ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: The general body of that Fund resolved recently that the society should be liquidated. The necessary preliminaries have been instituted and the question is under the consideration of the Registrar.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know when that resolution was passed for liquidation ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: I believe it was in Edavam last.

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